

## Dust Retardant's Vital to Camp for Special Children

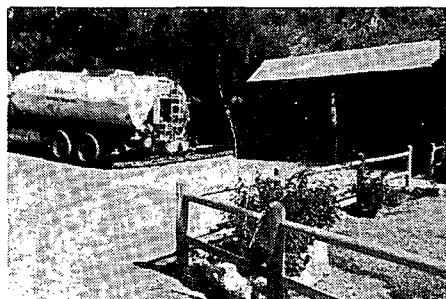
Dust is not unknown to the summer camping experience.

But the location of the campground and the needs of the campers inhabiting it can sometimes make dust a decided problem.

Camp Max Straus, a camp for emotionally disturbed children in Glendale's Verdugo Foothills, north of downtown Los Angeles, is located across the street from a residential area.

"In addition to children with emotional problems," Shel Weinstein, camp director, explained "the camp also takes children with asthma and mild epilepsy—problems that would keep them out of some other camps." The camp is run by the Jewish Big Brothers, a nonprofit social service organization.

Dust is not conducive to the good health of an asthmatic child or to maintaining good relationships in a residential area. So each year, prior to its opening, Camp Max Straus receives a dust control treatment—extending from its entry areas to its playgrounds and into the woodsy landscape of its hiking trails.



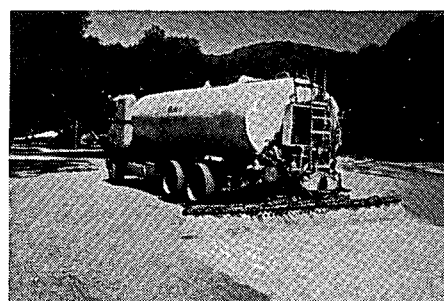
*Spraying at the entrance...*

The material contains no toxic substances or other ingredients that could create problems in itself. Shrubbery, rose bushes and other greenery are not harmed, either. The product, Cohex<sup>®</sup> dust retardant, is used to hold down dust in national forest campsites as well as on farm roads, access roads to industrial and mining sites and in the yards of commercial and industrial sites—a notable example being at LA Worldport (or Los Angeles Harbor).

The dust retardant is diluted 4:1 (water to retardant and applied by distributor truck at 1-1/2 gallons per square yard on the softball field and playground. For less critical areas, it is diluted 7:1 and applied at the same rate of 1-1/2 gallons/square yard. The treatments are made by Pavement Restoration, Inc., Palos Verdes Estates, Calif.

The dust retardant agent is a cold-water emulsion of petroleum resins which agglomerates dust, forming minute globules that adhere to the surface of the ground. This differs from the action of water which breaks dust particles into smaller fines and creates more dust. Some residual effect of the agglomeration produced by the agent was still in evidence at the camp a year later, Weinstein noted, due to light rainfall during the winter months.

The dusting difficulties might now



*...on the playground...*

be under control, but the solving of problems is a daily challenge for Weinstein and his camp counselors. "The behavioral problems of our kids require constant vigilance," he said. And, it might be added, a good deal of ingenuity as well.

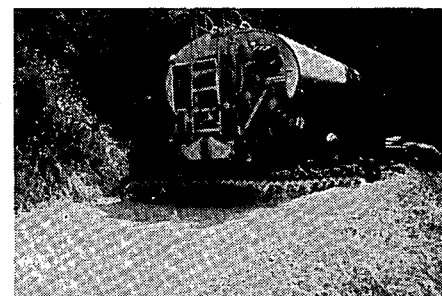
The camp is run on a tightly programmed and maintained schedule. "This is important because many of the children who come here are latchkey kids with almost no structure in their lives," Weinstein said. "Others, emotionally upset, will vent steam in destructive ways if not held to a program."

Many of the children at camp have been physically or sexually abused, about a third come from resident homes and a large percentage are from single-parent families. The children are referred to the camp by numerous social organizations.

Competition is not encouraged among these 840 children. A game such as volley ball is merely a playful exercise—not a struggle that could aggravate already hyperactive behavior.

In addition to swimming, hiking and horseback riding, the camp provides a nature den with fish, snakes and even a tarantula (as a nature study activity) and a farm with cows, sheep, pigs, goats, rabbits, ducks and geese that the children learn to feed and care for.

The camp, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1987, was named for an industrialist who left money in his will for many religious groups to be used to serve children. The summer of 1987 was significant for another reason: it was the first season that girls joined the campers.



*...and into the woods.*

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